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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 18 April 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan concerning the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter and its annex as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement issued on 18 April 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan expresses its profound concern at the serious deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. The military operations in Lebanon pose the threat of an escalation of military confrontation and are seriously undermining the peace process in the region at its most critical stage.

Kazakstan condemns the actions of all those opposed to continuing the negotiations process in the Middle East, and firmly rejects the use of armed force with a view to killing the civilian population and destroying civilian facilities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs proceeds from the principled position of the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Republic of Kazakstan calls upon the opposing sides to agree to an immediate cease-fire and take urgent measures to resolve the conflict by peaceful means in order to prevent it from escalating into a large-scale war.